Gipsy Hill Park.

To the Editor of the Spectator:

Without desiring to call in question the good intentions of the City Council in their expenditures of the public moneys, would it not be better, instead of expending large sums of money, as is now being done, in making a pleasure drive up one side and down the other of a narrow shoestring of a valley outside the city limits, if they would set to work inside those limits, systematically to improve our streets.

It will be found, if attention is turned in this direction, that from a third to a half of our sidewalks are uncurbed, unpaved, and unguttered; that the road-ways of a large proportion of our streets are not McAdamized, and that many of them need grading also. These streets are in daily use by all classes of our citizens, and a good many of them are in deplorable condition during our winters. To apply to their improvement any surplus revenue that may be found in the Treasury would simply be, as it seems to us, to give the preference, for the present at least, to the needful over the ornamental, and to business over pleasure.

UTILITY.

Gipsy Hill Park.

In the last SPECTATOR a "taxpayer" finds fault with the City Council for making the Gipsy Hill Park, and argues that the money thus spent is wasted. Allow me, another taxpayer, to say in your paper that it is the best money the Council has expended, except that appropriated for building the new school houses. In Richmond last week I had the pleasure of riding around the new parks Chimborazo, Monroe, Gamble's Hill and New Reservoir, and was greatly impressed with their beauty and usefulness to the community. They have added greatly to the taxable values of property while affording needed recreation to the citizens. Richmond is rapidly growing in population and especially in wealth. Many people are moving there from the country to get the advantage of the public schools and the parks. The danger is LOT that Staunton Council will spend too much on the new park, but that it will not spend enough. This is the view of

ANOTHER TAXPAYER.